

LRB – RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
ITEM 17, FILE #081167

JANUARY 8, 2009

**File #081167 authorizes the Milwaukee Police Department to transfer \$325,045 from the Federal Forfeiture Trust Fund and expend these monies on items listed in the 2009 Asset Forfeiture Plan. In accordance with the federal government’s Asset Forfeiture Sharing Program, these expenditures must be used for increased or enhanced law enforcement efforts and may not be used to supplant existing budgetary efforts.**

**BACKGROUND**

Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds come to the Police Department as a result of department participation in the seizure or forfeiture of tangible property or cash from successful drug trafficking investigations. Common Council File #920252 requires the Police Department to present an annual Asset Forfeiture Plan, which includes current expenditure priorities for these funds, to the Common Council. The 2009 Asset Forfeiture Plan is included in Communication File #081166 - Item #16 on the Public Safety Committee agenda for January 8, 2009.

Because forfeiture funds provide a significant level of “discretionary” spending power to the Police Department, a separate resolution is required for the release of these monies, which are held in a trust fund. Once allocated, the Police Department can use funds for any approved purpose for a period of up to 3 years, after which unspent funds revert to the Federal Forfeiture Trust Fund and become eligible for re-allocation.

**DISCUSSION**

The 2009 Asset Forfeiture Plan includes \$1,595,845 of designated expenditures for increased or enhanced law enforcement efforts. This resolution authorizes the Police Department to transfer \$325,045 from the Federal Forfeiture Trust Fund for certain items included in the 2009 Asset Forfeiture Plan.

Following are all items listed on the Police Department’s 2009 Asset Forfeiture Plan, including a brief explanation of each item. For a more detailed explanation of each item and purpose, please see the 2009 Asset Forfeiture Plan. **Those items highlighted are included in this resolution’s expenditure request.**

- **Administrative Fees** **\$15,000**  
Funds will reimburse the U.S. Marshall’s Office to offset expenses incurred in the seizure of vehicles or other non-monetary property.
- **Bicycle Patrol** **\$13,000**  
Funds will equip additional riders to perform bicycle patrol.
- **Canine Unit** **\$5,000**  
Funds will provide food, medical care and boarding for 3 drug-interdiction canines.
- **Cellular Phones** **\$45,000**  
Funds cellular telephones for field officers and investigative personnel assigned to field activities.
- **Computer Upgrades** **(\$26,975 authorized in this resolution)** **\$79,000**  
Funds are used for a variety of purposes, including new software, additional server memory and additional computers.

- **Crime Analysis Tools** **\$47,200**  
Funds are used for computers, printers, a server and software to assist in crime data analysis.
- **EOC Internet and Cabling Upgrades** **\$25,400**  
Funds will upgrade the Emergency Operations Center.
- **Investigative Funds** **\$50,000**  
Funds are used in criminal investigations, including drug related cases.
- **Mounted Patrol Equipment** **\$38,275**  
Funds will provide for an additional vehicle and a horse trailer.
- **Port Grant Match** **\$57,320**  
Funding is primarily for items the dive team uses in underwater searches for explosive devices.
- **Property System Upgrades** **\$39,400**  
Funds will purchase an upgrade to the evidence property system as well as bar code scanners.
- **Range Upgrades** **\$75,000**  
Funds will add enhancements to the range, making the training more closely approximate actual situations.
- **Renovation of Old District #3** **\$450,000**  
Funds will be used to supplement 2008 and 2009 capital funding and 2008 asset forfeiture funding totaling \$1,075,000 for the renovation of the Old Third District Station located at 4715 West Vliet Street.
- **Surveillance Equipment (\$12,475 authorized in this resolution)** **\$30,975**  
Funds will purchase equipment to conduct covert investigations and safely obtain evidential photos and video footage.
- **Tasers** **\$50,050**  
Funds will purchase roughly 50 additional units and accessories.
- **Technology Services** **\$450,000**  
Funding will provide additional funding to resolve information technology equipment and technical needs as well as complete various projects.
- **TEU Equipment** **\$20,225**  
Funds will allow the purchase of ballistic equipment.
- **Throw Phone for Hostage Negotiators** **\$30,000**  
Funds will replace the throw phone purchases in 2002.
- **Training** **\$75,000**  
Funds will be used for employee training and education.

**TOTAL AUTHORIZATION REQUESTED: **\$325,045****

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Expenditures authorized by this resolution total \$325,045 from the Police Department's Federal Forfeiture Trust Fund. As of November 15, 2008, the balance in this account was \$1,169,742. Because no City operating funds are included in this expenditure request, this resolution has no impact on the tax levy.

cc: Marianne Walsh  
W. Martin Morics  
Captain Diana Rowe  
Lieutenant Gary Gacek  
Barbara Butler

Prepared by:  
Michael Talarczyk  
Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
286-8661  
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